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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CANADA: MORE ON THE SEPARATISM ISSUE

THE QUEBEC SEPARATISM ISSUE CONTINUES TO OCCUPY CANADIAN LEADERS. IN HIS NOVEMBER 24 SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU:

--TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE QUEBEC PARTY (PQ) VICTORY DID NOT REPRESENT A MANDATE FOR SEPARATISM; AND

--POINTED OUT THAT THE DECENTRALIZATION POLICY ADVOCATED BY THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT CAUSE THE SEPARATIONISTS TO ABANDON THEIR OBJECTIVE.

IN A REBUTTAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH, PROGRESSIVE
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CONSERVATIVE LEADER CLARK SAID THAT, WHILE HE WOULD

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COOPERATE WITH RENE LEVESQUE IN BETTERING THE LOT OF THE QUEBEC POPULATION, HE OPPOSES ANY EFFORTS TO TAKE QUEBEC OUT OF THE CONFEDERATION.

EMBASSY OTTAWA BELIEVES A MAJORITY OF QUEBECKERS IS

UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT SEPARATISM IN A REFERENDUM IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT WARNS AGAINST UNDERESTIMATING THE FEELINGS OF ETHNIC PRIDE GENERATED BY THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTIONS. THE EMBASSY ADDS:

--TRUDEAU SEEMS TO BE IN A NO-WIN SITUATION: A HARD-LINE APPROACH WILL ALIENATE SUPPORTERS IN QUEBEC, WHILE A CONCILIATORY STANCE MIGHT CONFIRM SUSPICIONS THAT, AS A FRENCH-CANADIAN, HE IS FAR TOO SOFT ON QUEBEC.

--MANY CANADIANS ACCEPT CLARK'S THESIS THAT THE FEDERAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED TO GIVE THE PROVINCES A GREATER VOICE IN REGIONAL MATTERS, AND WILL COME TO FAVOR GRANTING QUEBEC A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 4673 AND 4674, 11/25, AND (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 4670 AND 4671, 11/24.

2. SPAIN: ANTI-ABSTENTION OVERKILL

THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT INTENDS TO PROMOTE A LARGE TURNOUT IN THE DECEMBER 15 REFERENDUM ON THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL WHILE PROSCRIBING ANY PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNIST OR FAR-LEFT GROUPS. COMMENTING THAT THE CURRENT STRIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-ABSTENTION DRIVE MAY BE A TACTICAL ERROR, EMBASSY MADRID NOTES THAT SUAREZ MAY BE RELUCTANT TO CHANGE HIS APPROACH SINCE THE GOVERNMENT:

--CAN SCARCELY ALLOW THE COMMUNISTS GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION ON THIS ISSUE THAN ON ANY OTHER;

--MAY FEEL IT MUST WIN BIG, BOTH TO SHOW THE RIGHT

THE DISPOSITION OF THE PEOPLE AND TO IMPROVE ITS BARGAINING POSITION WITH THE LEFT; AND

--MAY BE DISINCLINED TO MOLLIFY A LEFT WHICH IT FEELS HAS FAILED TO GIVE DUE PRAISE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S VICTORY IN THE CORTES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 8925, 11/24.

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3. JAMAICA, CUBA AND THE US: HAVING ONE'S CAKE AND EATING IT

IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS NOVEMBER 20, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WITH CASTRO." EMBASSY KINGSTON REPORTS THAT MANLEY

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JUSTIFIED HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BY CITING:

--THE NEED FOR CUBAN-JAMAICAN COORDINATION ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES;

--THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION;

--CUBAN TRAINING OF JAMAICAN SECURITY PERSONNEL; AND

--THE POSSIBILITY THAT JAMAICA COULD PLAY A PART IN A RELAXATION OF CUBAN-US TENSIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MANLEY'S PERFORMANCE WAS UNUSUAL IN THAT HE ISSUED DENIALS WHEN NO ACCUSATIONS HAD BEEN MADE. THE SINCERITY AND PERSUASIVENESS OF HIS ARGUMENT THAT CUBAN-JAMAICAN TIES MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL TO THE US WERE UNDERCUT BY THE JBC'S JUXTAPOSITION OF THE SPEECH WITH A CUBAN PROPAGANDA FILM CHARGING THAT THE CIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CUBANA CRASH AND OTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CUBANS--AND THEIR FRIENDS. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 5126, 11/24.

4. MEXICO: UNEASY PEACE IN THE YAQUI VALLEY

CONSULATE HERMOSILLO REPORTS THAT THE NOVEMBER 19 LAND CONFISCATIONS IN THE YAQUI VALLEY HAVE NOT AS YET RE-
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SULTED IN ANY VIOLENCE. THE LANDOWNERS AFFECTED HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL SEEK RELIEF IN THE COURTS, AFTER THE LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE. ONE NEWSPAPER HAS PUBLISHED A LIST PURPORTING TO SHOW THAT OVER 800 (RATHER THAN THE 80 THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGED) OWNERS HAD THEIR LAND CONFISCATED AND THAT VIRTUALLY NONE OWNED MORE THAN 100 HECTARES OF IRRIGATED LAND. THE CONSULATE ADDS THAT, WHILE THERE IS WIDESPREAD FEAR OF FURTHER CONFISCATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM THAT THINGS WILL IMPROVE UNDER LOPEZ PORTILLO. (CONFIDENTIAL) HERMOSILLO 340, 11/24.

5. LATE ITEM: OECD YEAR-END ASSESSMENT

THE US MISSION TO THE OECD REPORTS THAT THE OECD ECONOMIC

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POLICY COMMITTEE'S (EPC) YEAR-END ASSESSMENT INDICATED
THAT OECD COUNTRIES:

--WILL CONTINUE TO UPHOLD AN ANTI-INFLATIONARY
STRATEGY FOR GRADUAL MEDIUM-TERM EXPANSION; AND

--ACCEPT AS INEVITABLE THAT THE 1977 GROWTH RATE
WILL FALL SOMEWHAT BELOW LONG RANGE GOALS.

"WEAK" OECD COUNTRIES RELUCTANTLY RECOGNIZED THAT CONTINUATION OF RESTRICTIVE POLICIES WILL CAUSE THEM TO FALL SHORT OF THEIR 1977 GROWTH SCENARIO AND DO LITTLE TO ALLEVIATE THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. EVEN THE "STRONG" COUNTRIES (US, FRG AND JAPAN) CAN ONLY EXPECT TO MEET, BUT NOT EXCEED, THEIR OUTLINED GROWTH CURVES. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE "WEAK" COUNTRIES STATED THAT THE "STRONG" SHOULD:

--SHOULDER MORE OF THE BURDEN BY TAKING IMMEDIATE
MEASURES TO GROW FASTER; AND

--INDUCE RAPID EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS TO
PREVENT TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

THE "STRONG" COUNTRIES FELT THEIR GROWTH RATES WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE PARAMOUNT NEED TO AVOID RENEWAL OF
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THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL BUT SAID THEY STOOD READY TO INJECT FURTHER STIMULUS IF THE SITUATION WERE TO DETERIORATE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 34942, 11/26.
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